

Serial Number: 09/869,299  
Group Art Unit: 3635

**REMARKS**

The amendments presented herein are intended to place the application in condition for allowance in view of the final rejection of claims 68 - 73. All other claims presented in the application stand allowed.

Claim 68 has been amended so that it depends from allowable claim 1, thereby rendering claim 68 fully patentable in all respects at least on the same grounds that patentability is established for claim 1. This amendment to claim 68 does not constitute an admission that claim 68 in independent form is unpatentable in its own right, but rather is intended to expedite the grant of a patent from this application and to avoid continuing debate regarding the patentability of the claim in its independent form.

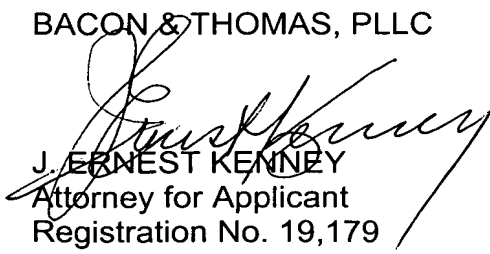
Claim 69 has been canceled and claim 70 is now dependent from allowable claim 68.

Claims 71-73 have been canceled without prejudice to remove these claims from further contention.

It is respectfully submitted that the application has been placed fully in condition for allowance without raising any new issues or requiring further detailed examination. Accordingly, entry of the amendments after final rejection is appropriate under 37 C.F.R. 1.116.

If any issues remain preventing of the passing of the application to issue that can be resolved by a telephone or personal conference, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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